



# tabú

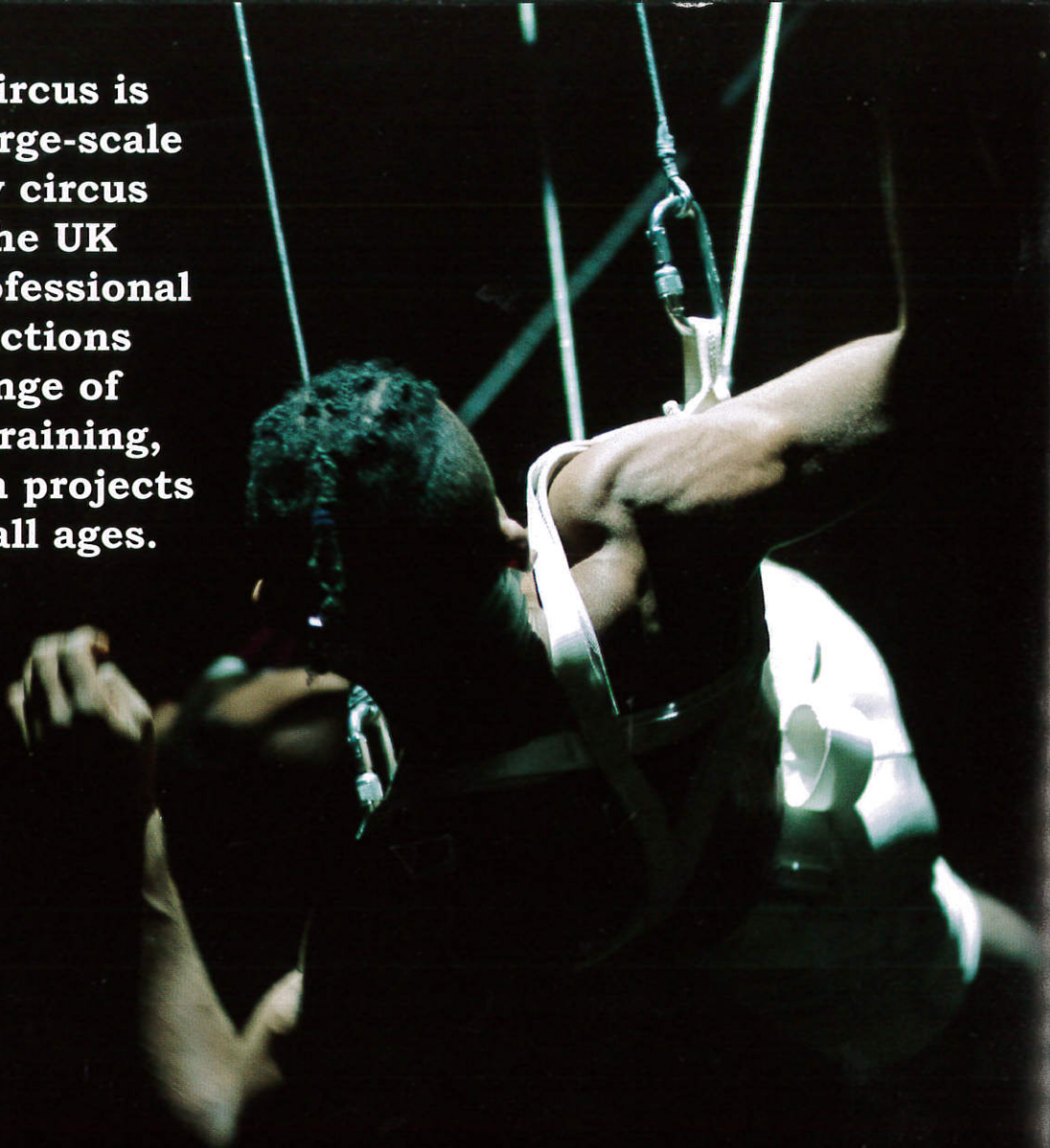
*my fear and yours*

**nofitstate** ©

Written and Directed by Firenza Guidi  
Music composed by Peter Rudolf Swaffer Reynolds

**NoFit State Circus is the leading large-scale contemporary circus company in the UK producing professional touring productions and a wide range of community, training, and education projects for people of all ages.**

**no**fitstate<sup>©</sup>



NoFitstate was founded in 1986 by five friends, during a politically charged time. In a recession, under the government of one outrageous Tory prime minister and because of a common desire for an alternative lifestyle the circus was born as a creative reaction to the world around them. Twenty Three years on nofitstate believes the sum of the whole out weighs the sum of the parts. The company lives together, works together, eats together, laughs and cries together. We follow our alternative lifestyle by travelling in trucks, trailers and caravans and living and breathing as one community. This is what creates the sprit that is nofitstate and gives our work its heart and soul.

From 2004-2007 nofitstate toured their critically acclaimed production of ImMortal across the UK and Europe. This show gained cult status, won four awards for excellence, had sell out runs in nine different countries and played to over 105,000 people.

NoFit State Circus is pleased to present the second incarnation of *tabú*, developed and produced by the same creative team as the ImMortal project. Once again we experiment with promenade performance, ensuring that each member of the audience will enjoy a different experience.

Depending on where you stand and how much you actively explore, you are guaranteed a unique perspective on the spectacle. Don't be afraid to move around the tent to gain a better view, the stewards will guide you and keep you safe.

*tabú*- my fear and yours is a reworking of the first *tabú* project and has the same international cast as *tabú* -standing on the edge of the wilderness. This cast includes performers from Wales, Argentina, Australia, France, Italy, Finland and England, and brings some exciting new skills and some surprising new ensemble elements. We also welcome three new members to the Circus Orchestra. Breaking down barriers between the performers and their audience, *tabú* will ensure that nofitstate remains on the cutting edge of contemporary circus today.

*Fear is the most widespread, undetected, un-acknowledged of taboos. It is only when a person with no fear appears in our life that we can go back to living*

Written and Directed by Firenza Guidi  
**Director's Notes**

**The world** is round like a bull-ring with a wide corridor that cuts the space in half and sharp lines slicing through thin air, dangerous but infinitely seductive. It is a cruel world, yet it is the only place where people learn to play. There is a strong community that lives there. No vivid colours have survived the dust. Just black and white and many shades of grey.

**The story.** It's been raining for 4 years, 11 months and 2 days. The world has come to low-voltage functioning. Not quite stopped, but everything works through a low energy. Stillness pervades the world inside the tent. An unforgiving calm hiding a storm. The world is asleep. The bodies, perfect relics of a time past, are hanging like cold meat: humanity parked in a kind of manageable storage-space where men and women live sedated, floating above the swamp. Without ups or downs without rebellions or revolutions. There is no darkness. No dark side. Only low-voltage brightness which induces a permanent state of torpor. Fear has made mankind close more and more: humans have become white, beautiful, sanitised flower-beds floating in air, no longer embroiled in the mud below. Soon everything and everybody will be absorbed by this smooth, gliding, almost mechanised world where people move about in circular rickshaws. But a young girl rips through the air like an earthquake to look through the shadows of her family lost in the swamps. Her name is Amaranta. Her mother spent her life enclosed, as if it was raining all the time; so the young girl spent hers crossing through to the other side of the rain, looking for a place to sleep among the clouds. With her arrival, the world cracks open like a gentle earthquake, becoming more jerky, rougher at the edges. Amaranta re-trains people in the art of "being". Unearthing their lives and past to exhume whatever sign of humanity might be buried in the bog-site. One by one, the family and the known faces of the remote swamp come back to life with their colours, their dances, their hang-ups, their laughter and their fears, raising their heads like raging bulls. Like archetypal figures they populate a world in which past, present and future co-exist. Amaranta lifts them one by one from their torments and obsessions. Her innocence and fearlessness counteract the dark pull of this scarred humanity. Through her journey she will dig and probe: Where does fear reside? Do we choose *it* or does it choose us? Amaranta becomes a woman and a predator. Finally, the very mechanisms that created the serene order of things where fear is sedated and silenced like the worst secret, become the instruments of the revolution. A revolution of the senses, where taste, touch, smell, sight and hearing become paramount in celebrating life's dirtiness and its embarrassingly fearful or irresistibly sensual side.

I'm afraid that the  
music will desert me  
I'm checking. Always  
checking that it doesn't

# tabú

*my fear and yours*

**The idea Tabú** is a new journey and exploration into the darker side of being. It looks at fear as a positive and negative force. Fear makes us breathe faster and forces our eyes to open wide but it can also make us use and abuse our power over others. *Tabú* isn't a freak show, it isn't voyeurism. It is the tissue we are made of and cannot fully grasp, let alone explain. *Tabú* digs deeper and deeper into human nature and whilst remaining firmly on the ground, probes into and soars around the very things wo/man has done but cannot talk about. These are *tabú*.

**The Process.** At the beginning there is a title, an idea, a vision and lots of questions. Then the environment begins to take shape as a design concept. Then the performers and creative team enter the vision with their different skills and personalities and cultures. Then a mentor appears by my side, to accompany and inspire me through my journey. This time it was Gabriel García Márquez. Particularly *One hundred years of solitude*. It was brilliant to see the book in at least 5 different languages dotted around the tent during rehearsals. The mentor, be it a novel or poem or film, is a constant source of inspiration while the montage of the show begins to take form. Ultimately, it is a total sensual experience. What the audience will feel is an energy, a music, a smell, a touch, a performer gazing right into their eyes as they search for clues. So, come and surrender to the velvet revolution.

Firenza Guidi © March 2009





## The Cast

**Adie Delaney** - (Swinging, Flying Trapeze, Hula hoops)  
**Amaranta**, the girl that knows no fear

**Natalia Fandiño** - (Static Trapeze) **Ursula**, the originator and eater of earth

**Marco Fiera** - (Penny Farthing, Hula hoops) **José Howard Morley** - (Counter weighting & Hula Hoops) **Melquiades**, the last of the travelling gypsies

**Barnz Munn** - (Counter weighting) **José Arcadio**, the son that ran away with the gypsies

**Shaena Brandel** - (Aerial Hoop) **Fernanda**, the woman that was raised to be a queen

**Kevin McIntosh** - (Rope) **Arcadio**, the day dreamer

**Simone Riccio** - (German Wheel) **Pietro Crespi**, the Italian music teacher

**Vanina Fandiño** - (Tightrope) **Petra Cortes**, the woman who multiplies animals just by looking at them

**Marcella Manzilli** - (Flying Trapeze) **Remedios**, the Beauty

**Petri Ekqvist** - (Cradle & Flying catcher) **Aureliano**, The great revolutionary

**Kadja Karjalainen** - (Cradle & Flying Trapeze) **Rebeca**, the girl from over the mountains



## **The Company**

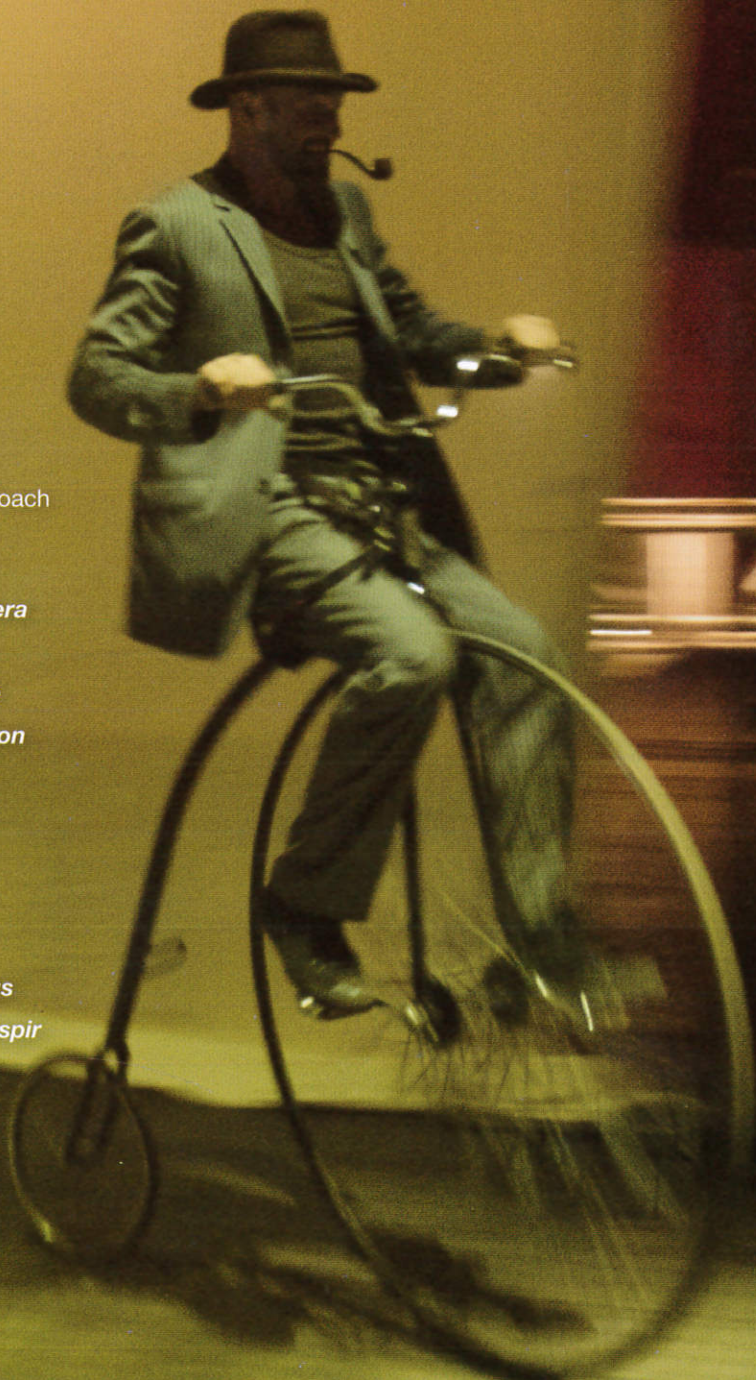
Artistic Director tabú project -  
**Firenza Guidi**  
Producer and Tour Manager -  
**Tom Rack**  
Co Producer, Press and PR -  
**Ali Williams**  
Operations and FOH Manager -  
**Tim Adam**  
Executive Director -  
**Alison Woods**  
Administrator -  
**Samantha Minas**  
Assistant Producer -  
**Zoe Munn**  
Creative Team - **Firenza Guidi,**  
**Ali Williams, Tom Rack**  
Composer & Musical Director  
- **Peter Rudolf Swaffer**  
**Reynolds**  
Design Team - **Tom Rack,**  
**Firenza Guidi, Barnz,**  
**Rhiannon Matthews**  
Costume Design -  
**The Matthews Sisters**  
Original Lighting Design -  
**Aðalsteinn Stefánsson**  
2009 Relight Design -  
**Mark Satchel**  
Assistant Lighting Design -  
**Adam Cobley**  
Video Makers - **Chris Nurse,**  
**Lissy Moore**  
Set Construction -  
**Tarn Aitken, Tanc, Iolo**  
**lavender, Spike Thomas**  
Costume Makers -  
**Rhi Matthews, Angus**  
**Matthews, Elfreida Berry,**  
**Janina Bacchetta, Pascal**  
**Arndtz, Kate Bohin, Hannah**  
**Kinthead, Jo Nichols, Bryony**  
**Black, Laura 'Pixie' Harold**





## **Crew**

Manager - **Helen Fagelman**  
Technical Manager / Flying Trapeze Coach  
- **Chris Hills**  
Master - **Howard Morley**  
Production Coordinator - **Marco Fiera**  
Lighting Technician - **Leif Le Page**  
Production Design / Technician - **Lissy Moore**  
Camera Operator - **Tanwen Watson**  
Sound Engineer - **Pete Storer**  
Production Office - **Elfie Berry**  
Rigger - **Barnz Munn**  
Lead Rigger / Crew - **Saul Baum**  
Production Manager / Crew - **Dave Rook**  
Production Management - **Fatina Cummings**  
Production Therapist / Crew - **Martin Vallespir**  
Production Office - **John Aston**  
Production Office - **Sarah Wilson**  
Production Office - **Kate Bevan**



**Circus is music.** Everything revolves around it. The more music there is the more circus and vice-versa. It is like a dynamic equation. In this process, contemporary circus continues to evolve. It moves through a forest of shapes and shadows. The music is necessary, like the string tied round your finger that leads you back out of the labyrinth.

*Peter Rudolf Swaffer-Reynolds*



### ***The Musicians***

***Directed and composed by Peter Rudolf Swaffer Reynolds***

***Andy North*** - Electric Double Bass, Bass, Guitar, Keyboards

***Gareth Marshall*** - Bass, Guitar, Vocals

***Dylan Leonard*** - Percussion

***Louise Marsland*** - Saxophone





### ***Tour dates***

12th - 14th March  
***The Big Top, North Dock (off B4034), Llanelli***

28th March - 19th April  
***The Roundhouse, Chalk Farm Road, London***

28th April - 10th May  
***Brighton Fringe Festival***

19th May - 1st June  
***Recklinghausen (Ruhrfestspiele) Germany***

4th - 26th July  
***Avignon (Festival d'Avignon) France***

7th - 23rd August  
***Antwerp***

11th - 27th September  
***Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff***





## ***Become a friend of NoFit State Circus***

NoFit State is a charity and we do far more than the work you see in the tent on tour. As well as our touring productions we run a wide range of community projects, training and education programmes, apprenticeship schemes and youth circus projects. The work we deliver with the community is at the heart of the organisation.

For only £2.00 (Friend) or £5.00 (Family Friend) a month, you can help us to develop our work and ensure that we can continue to offer people of all ages the opportunity to discover the world of circus. Join today at the merchandise stand and you will receive a free t-shirt, or to find out more email [sam@nofitstate.com](mailto:sam@nofitstate.com)

### ***With Thanks***

The trustees of NoFit State; Paul Ralley, Orit Azaz, Toby Philpott, Tim Hudson, Mark White, Lisa Every, Mark Robson, Claire Sain-Ley-Berry, Helen Protheroe, Sara Pepper, Helen Crocker and Phil Blight.

Carmarthenshire County Council, Rory Dickinson and Wyn Davies, Theatre Elli, RWCMD, Pro line and Drew Corter, Addhock Designs, PT Winchester, Jacobs Market, Tim Hudson for Floor Plan, The volunteers and work placements for all their hard work, our children and all our friends and family.

Many and very special thanks to David Newland, Glender Charles, and Sally Lewis for making it all possible this year.

#### **Programme Design:**

[www.andescape.co.uk](http://www.andescape.co.uk)

#### **Programme Photography:**

Seventh Wave Creations

[www.seventhwavecreations.com](http://www.seventhwavecreations.com)

Inept Gravity

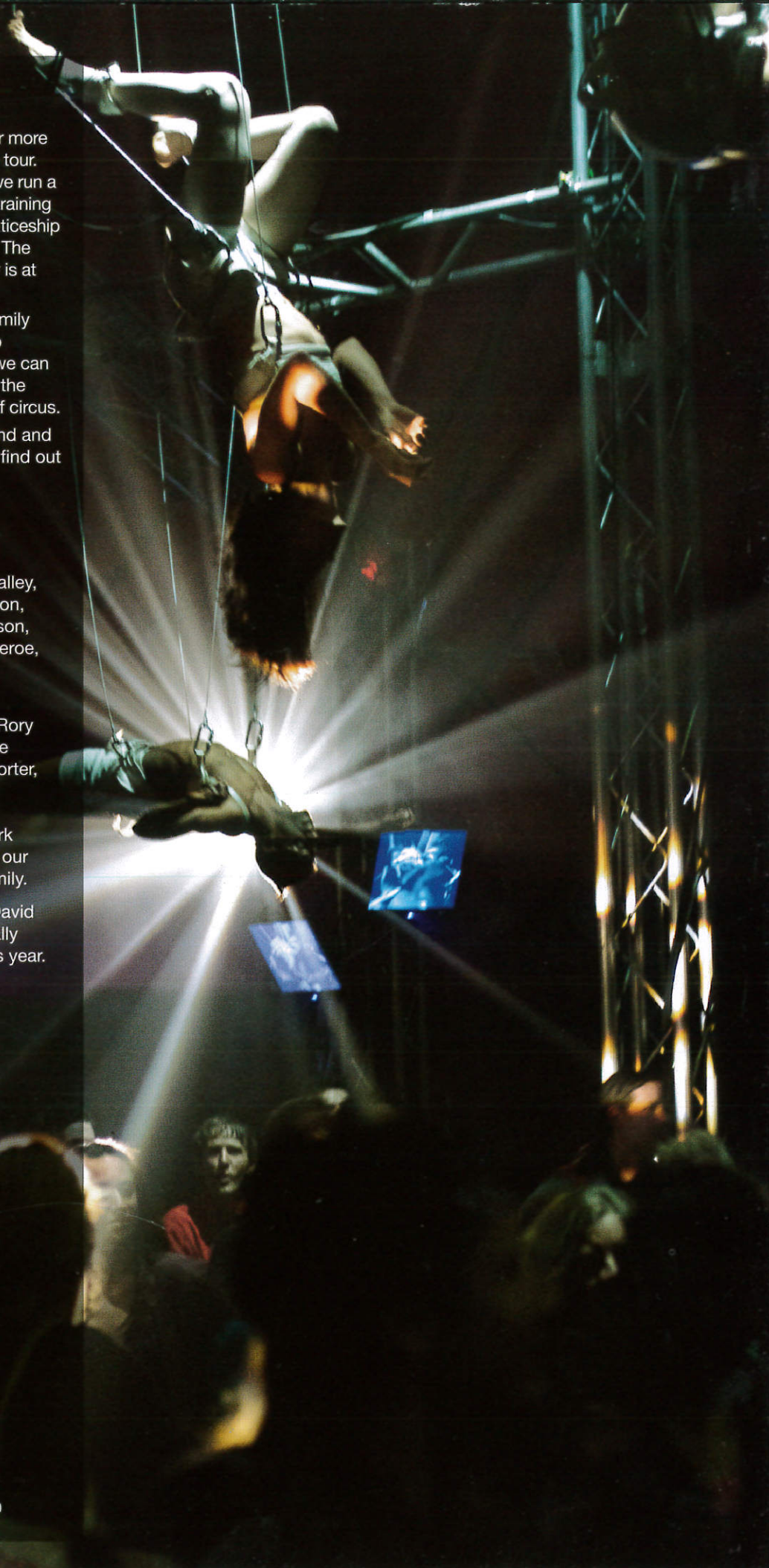
[www.ineptgravity.com](http://www.ineptgravity.com)

Neil Massey

#### **Contact Details:**

NoFit State Circus  
PO Box 238  
Cardiff CF24 0XS  
02920 221330/340  
[info@nofitstate.com](mailto:info@nofitstate.com)  
[www.nofitstate.org](http://www.nofitstate.org)

nofitstate is a registered Charity no. 1102850



I don't remember how it happened  
I left him in a house full of pain, blame and fear  
I could have stayed and fought it all with him

**nofitstate** ©



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru  
Arts Council of Wales



PRSFoundation  
for new music



CANOLFAN  
MILENIWM  
CYMRU  
WALES  
MILLENNIUM  
CENTRE

Arts  
& Business  
Cymru



Arts and Business Cymru are delighted to work in partnership with NoFit State to hold a joint reception evening in the tent in Cardiff Bay. NoFit State Circus gratefully acknowledges the support of the Welsh Assembly Government and igloo Regeneration.